



Kimberly Lovins

A Stuttgart-based service member receives a vaccine during a pre-deployment health evaluation on Patch Barracks. Area medical officials say increased deployments will not impact the quality of medical care available to family members.

Family health care to remain top-notch, ERMIC commander says

By Cynthia Vaughan

Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office

"Home is here," and so is your military medical healthcare system.

Brig. Gen. Elder Granger, commander of Europe Regional Medical Command, wants families of deployed active-duty service members to know they will continue to be taken care of.

"There are many reasons for families of deployed service members to remain in Europe," Granger said.

"One reason is that we have a robust military medical system in place in the European theater that is set up to continue to meet the health care needs of all of our beneficiaries.

"The military medical health care system in Europe is augmented by qualified, competent and caring host nation health care providers," Granger said, "and in Europe... providing healthcare for families of deployed service members is not new to us. We routinely experience military deployments in this theater.

"Military medical personnel often deploy in support of various contingencies including exercises, humanitarian efforts and most recently in support of the war against terrorism," Granger said.

"While we are always augmented by host nation health care providers, in many instances we are also back-filled by reserve medical personnel at our military treatment facilities."

Granger emphasized, however, that if someone considers going back to the United States or relocating somewhere else in Europe while an active-duty spouse or family member is deployed, it is imperative for that individual to visit a Tricare service center in Europe before departing.

Granger said that the Tricare service center will help family members determine if Tricare enrollment needs to be transferred to another region.

The service center can also help individuals find out what military medical assets may or may not be available in the area where they are thinking of relocating.

The center can also help determine whether or not family members may incur out-of-pocket costs that they do not pay for in Europe.

"The bottom line," Granger said, "is that home is here, and we have a responsibility to America's sons and daughters who put themselves in harm's way to fight our nation's wars.

"We will continue to provide comprehensive, quality care for families of deployed service members."

'Home is here. We will continue to provide quality care for families of deployed service members.'

Brig. Gen. Elder Granger
Europe Regional Medical Command

Q & A: Powers of attorney

The information below has been provided by U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region, and V Corps Office of the Judge Advocate. To access this information online visit www.ima.army.mil/europe and click "Europe Region News."

Q: What is a power of attorney?

A: A power of attorney is a document that allows someone else to act as your legal agent.

Q: Are there different kinds of powers of attorney?

A: Yes. The two types are *general* and *special* powers of attorney.

A *general* power of attorney allows the person you name (called your agent) to do any and all things that you could legally do, from registering a car to selling a house.

A *special* (or limited) power of attorney lists a particular act that the agent is authorized to do and limits the agent to that act. The agent can, of course, be authorized to do more than one legal act in a single special power of attorney.

Q: When does a power of attorney expire?

A: A power of attorney should never be made indefinite or permanent. The best course is to set a date for the power of attorney to expire; this can be written into the power of attorney.

That way, the power of attorney will be no good after the expiration date that you set, unless you renew it by preparing a new power of attorney.

Q: What can a special power of attorney accomplish?

A: You can use a special power of attorney to allow someone to do almost all legal actions that you can do yourself – including but not limited to the following:

- Buying or selling real estate;
- Purchasing a car or selling furniture;
- Signing your paycheck or withdrawing money from your bank account;
- Admitting your child to the hospital;
- Shipping or storing your luggage and household goods;
- Signing your name to a lease or an agreement to connect utilities;
- Cashing and depositing tax refund checks; and
- Transferring stocks and bonds.

Q: What activities can a power of attorney not accomplish?

A: While a power of attorney will be accepted

For more information about powers of attorney call the Stuttgart Law Center (421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152)

as valid for most purposes, in some states there are some items that cannot be accomplished by using a power of attorney because these actions are so personal in nature that they cannot be delegated to another.

Thus, a marriage ceremony or the execution of a will usually cannot be done by power of attorney.

Q: All this sounds great – why doesn't everyone have a power of attorney?

A: A power of attorney can be very useful if you have one in effect when you need it.

However, a power of attorney can be abused as well as used; there can be disadvantages to having one as well as advantages.

A husband who just separated from his wife might use the power of attorney she gave him to clean out her individual bank account.

A well-meaning older person might give a power of attorney to a younger relative, only to discover that the relative squandered and spent the assets of the older person.

A power of attorney always has the potential for being a very helpful or a very dangerous document for those reasons.

The important thing to remember is that you are going to be legally responsible for the acts of your agent. Therefore, you must exercise great care in selecting the person to be your agent.

Q: Does every business or bank have to accept my power of attorney?

A: No. Every business or bank is free to accept or reject a power of attorney. Some businesses or banks require that the power of attorney be recorded, while others do not. Some banks will accept only a special power of attorney.

The best rule is to check with the business or bank before obtaining or using a power of attorney to be sure that it will be accepted.

Helping families deal with deployment

Stuttgart's Army Community Service is sponsoring a series of lunchtime seminars to help families with children deal with deployment-related issues.

April 2: Kids and deployment

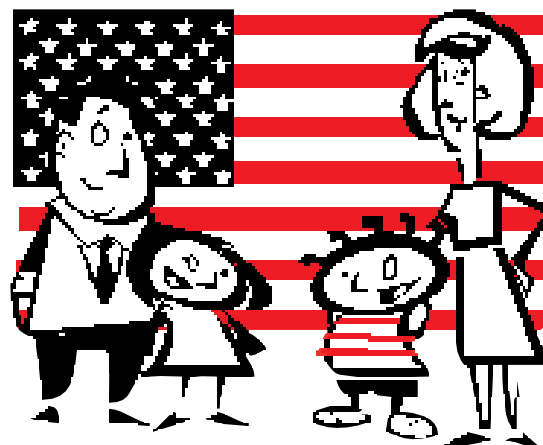
April 3: Reuniting after deployment
(this session held in the Panzer CDC)

April 9: When parents get angry

April 16: Talking about world events

April 23: When 'no' gets you nowhere

Unless otherwise noted, each session is noon to 1 p.m. in the ACS office (Patch Barracks, building 2307, second floor)



For more information call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.